















New Lawn Manual and Maintenance Guideline

Congratulations! Now that you have established your lawn of freshly cut sod, installed by **Division 2 Contracting Ltd.**, please refer to the following helpful hints aimed towards assisting you to maintain health and longevity for your lawn.

FIRST 3 WEEKS AFTER INSTALLATION

WATERING YOUR LAWN

Saturate the area with water immediately. One litre of water in the first hour does more than six litres three hours later. Follow the watering directions of the following chart to be sure to establish your new lawn for the first 3 weeks.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Week 1							
Week 2							
Week 3							

Avoid watering during midday, the applied water will only evaporate. Long penetrating waterings are best. Consistently wetting only inches of the soil will promote shallow roots, as they develop close to the surface in search of this water. Shallow roots leave your lawn susceptible to disease.

MOWING YOUR LAWN

Is one of the most important operations in the maintenance of your lawn. Follow the chart above for mowing instructions for establishing your freshly installed sod.

Your newly sodded lawn generally needs mowing after 6-7 days. As a general rule, never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade during any single mowing – removing more will stun the lawn, slow the growth to the roots, and discolour the green appearance of your lawn. Alter the directions that you mow your lawn, constantly mowing in the same direction can

cause the grass blades to lean in the direction of mowing.

For best results, mow your lawn to 2 1/4" height and keep your mower blades sharp – dull blades will cause tearing and cause discolouring. Frequent mowings to the proper height will thicken your lawn and create a deeper root growth.

Never let your grass grow so long that the blades of grass fall over, this can cause the lawn to smother itself out. Leaving clumps of grass on the lawn after cutting will also smother out the areas where the clumps gather.

AFTER YOUR NEW LAWN IS ESTABLISHED

FEEDING YOUR LAWN

The amount of fertilizer for any particular lawn depends on the fertility of the natural soil, the degree of growth you want, and the type of grass that you are growing.

Bluegrass requires a higher ratio of nitrogen and an equivalent portion of both phosphorous and potassium – these being the 3 ingredients in fertilizer. We recommend a blend of 21-7-7, with the number 21 being nitrogen and the 7 being phosphorous and potassium respectively.

To simplify this process and avoid burning your grass, since nitrogen applied in excess to areas can burn your grass, we suggest any special turf type fertilizer made by a reputable manufacturer. This will best provide you with a well balanced feeding for your lawn and the fertilizer will release slowly.

The most important fertilizer application is in early spring, this is the most active growth season for Kentucky Bluegrass. Fertilizing during the spring will strengthen your lawn and provide it with the nutrients to withstand the hot summer months.

CONTROLLING WEEDS

The best weed control is a good healthy turf. When your lawn is thick and vigorous, weeds simply have no place to get started... and you have no problem. In renovating lawns, however, or even in established lawns that have had lapses in maintenance, weeds do have a way of intruding.

Two types of chemical weed controls are available – one type kills the weed (post-emergent) and the other type prevents seed germination (pre-emergent).

To eradicate broadleaf weeds, hormone type post-emergent chemicals are used. They are available under many trade names

and can be purchased in combination with fertilizer. They are most effective when weeds are growing vigorously in the early part of the season and temperatures are in the 20°C range.

Caution: follow the directions on the container.

Crabgrass is easily controlled by using pre-emergent chemicals on the soil surface where seeds may be waiting to sprout in the spring. You must apply your pre-emergent material early in the spring before the seeds germinate.

Killing the weeds is only half the operation – you must remember to replace them with grass.

We Recommend the Professional Services of

CONTROLLING DISEASE

Healthy turf will withstand infestation and recover faster than neglected turf. Here are some guides for healthy turf:

- ♦ Use enough fertilizer to keep grass growing vigorously — but avoid extreme of stimulation.
- ♦ Mow before the grass gets too tall.
- ♦ Cut no more than 3 cm. of the leaf surface at any one time.
- ♦ Keep your mower sharp.
- ♦ Don't allow clippings to accumulate to the extent that they form a mat.
- ♦ Remove thatch as required.
- ♦ Avoid frequent waterings which tend to keep the grass wet.
- ♦ Most important of all — use chemical preventatives as recommended by your local landscaper or garden centre.

READ THE LABEL. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS, AND TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.